



presents a

Pandora Film Production

at the

International Forum of New Cinema

of the

57th Berlin International Film Festival 2007

madonnas

madonnen

a film by

Maria Speth

starring

Sandra Hüller

(„Requiem“)

and

Susanne Lothar

(„The Piano Teacher“)

Screenings:

Press & Industry	Feb 09 2007	11.45	CinemaxX 5
Marketscreening	Feb 10 2007	11:15	CinemaxX 2
Premiere	Feb 11 2007	18:45	Delphi Filmpalast
Repeat Screenings	Feb 12 2007	10:00	CineStar 8
Repeat Screenings	Feb 13 2007	20:00	Colosseum 1
Repeat Screenings	Feb 18 2007	12:20	Arsenal 1

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CAST

Rita.....Sandra Hüller
Fanny.....Luisa Sappelt
Marc.....Coleman Orlando Swinton
Isabella.....Susanne Lothar
Hanna.....Gerti Drassl
Jerome Vassé.....Oliver Gourmet
Isa.....Ariana Lewis
Paul.....Kenneth Uhle
Maggie.....Elli Götze
J.T. (2 years).....Jermaine Tyrell Sanders
J.T. (1,5 years).....DeVante Latrell Jackson
Philippe Vassé.....Martin Goossens
Valérie Vassé.....Isabella Soupart
Louis Vassé.....Jérémie Segard

CREW

Directed and written by..... Maria Speth
Producers.....Christoph Friedel
.....Pandora Filmproduktion
Executive producer Claudia Steffen
Commissioning editor SF..... Susann Wach
Commissioning editor ZDF.....Claudia Tronnier
Director of photography.....Reinhold Vorschneider
Co-production.....Pascal Trächslin
.....Jean-Pierre und Luc Dardenne
.....Olivier Bronckhart
Produktion manager.....Dorissa Berninger
Editors.....Dietmar Kraus
.....Ludoo Troch
.....Maria Speth
Original soundLaurent Barbey
.....Ruedi Guyer

Sound design.....Out of Silence

.....Erik Mischijew

.....Matz Müller

Re-recording mixer.....Thomas Gauder

Casting.....Nina Haun

Art Direction.....Igor Gabriel

.....Tim Pannen

.....Marion Foradori

Costumes.....Birgit Killian

Make up.....Ljiljana Müller

Format.....35mm, 1:1,85, colour, Dolby Digital

Length.....125 min; 3474 meter

Languages.....german, english, french

Shooting.....on original locations in and around Frankfurt
(Germany) & Oostende (Belgium)

madonnas

madonnen
von Maria Speth

a

PANDORA FILM PRODUKTION

in co-produktion with

**CINWORX FILMPRODUKTION
LES FILMS DU FLEUVE
ZDF "DAS KLEINE FERNSEHSPIEL"
SCHWEIZER FERNSEHEN**

world sales

THE MATCH FACTORY

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**FILMFÖRDERUNGSANSTALT
CENTRE DU CINEMA ET DE LA AUDIOVISUEL DE LA COMMUNAUTE
FRANCAISE DE BELGIQUE ET DES TELEDISTRIBUTEURS WALLONS**

HESSISCHE FILMFÖRDERUNG

MEDIA Programme of the European Community

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Director's note

Everybody seems to know what a mother should and shouldn't do. And if she fails to fulfil the role society expects of her, massive moral sanctions are the consequence.

Unlike fathers in the same position. But social reality is full of mothers who fail to fulfil their role the way society expects them to.

This was my starting point. But my aim was to describe a specific and singular person rather than a social prototype.

This is a portrait of a woman who claims her mother was never a mother to her. She has several children of her own but she foists them off on her mother and thus forces her to take on the role she denied her daughter.

I wanted Rita's story to reflect the plight of past and future generations. And ask whether Rita's eldest daughter might one day say: "She was never a mother to me".

Synopsis

Rita flees to Belgium with her baby because she is wanted for theft and other offences in Germany. She sets out in search of her natural father whom she has never met. But he has a wife and children. Rita's sudden appearance causes complications in the family. She is eventually arrested by the Belgian police and deported to Germany where she serves a lengthy prison sentence.

During this time, Rita's four other children live with Rita's mother Isabella. She runs a restaurant and has little time for the children. Fanny, the eldest, has to look after her siblings.

After Rita is released from prison, she takes her children back again – against the wishes of her mother Isabella. With the help of Marc – an American soldier stationed in Germany – an almost normal family life develops. But Rita doesn't trust Marc's feelings. They don't fit into the pattern of her previous experiences. Rita resumes her former lifestyle. She sees other men and pilfers with a girlfriend. When Marc announces he is to be posted back in the USA, Rita's life is thrown off balance.

CREW

Maria Speth

writer & director

Maria Speth was born in 1967 and studied at the "Konrad Wolf "Academy of Film and Television in Babelsberg. She has worked since 1991 as an editing and directing assistant on various films and TV programs. Her films as a writer/director include: Mittwoch (short, 1995), Barfuss (short, 1999) winner of the 3sat Award at Oberhausen 1999, her feature debut the days between (in den tag hinein, 2001) which won the VPRO Tiger Award at Rotterdam, the Grand Prix du Jury at Créteil, and the MFG Star 2001, and madonnas (madonnen, 2007).

CAST

Sandra Hüller

Rita

Sandra Hüller was born in 1978 in the town of Suhl in Thuringia, Germany. From 1996 to 2000 she studied acting at the Ernst Busch Acting Academy in Berlin. Subsequently she was employed at the municipal theatres of Jena, Leipzig and Basel. She received critical acclaim for her outstanding performances as Juliet in Shakespeare's "Romeo and Juliet" (director: Sebastian Nübling) and as the mentally handicapped "Dora" in "Die sexuellen Neurosen unserer Eltern" (director: Barbara Frey), and in 2003 was named the "Young and Upcoming Actress of the Year" by the magazine *Theater Heute*. In 2006, for her role as "Michaela" in Hans Christian Schmid's "Requiem", she was nominated for the European Film Award and received the German Film Award, the Silver Bear of the Berlin Film Festival and the Bavarian Cinema Award.

Susanne Lothar

Isabella

Susanne Lothar was born in 1960 in Hamburg, where she attended the Conservatory for Music and the Performing Arts. She subsequently held engagements in Hamburg, Vienna, Stuttgart and Salzburg. She received the Boy Gobert Prize in 1981 for her performance as Recha in Lessing's "Nathan the Wise". In 1986 she was awarded the Josef Kainz Medal, in 1987 the O. E. Hasse Award and in 1988 was named "Actress of the Year". Susanne Lothar also performed with success in numerous films. She received the German Film Award for her role in "Eisenhans" (1983, director: Tankred Dorst). She also appeared in the films "Funny Games" (director: Michael Haneke 1998), "Die Klavierspielerin" (2002, director: Michael Haneke) and "Nemesis" (2006, director: Nicole Mosleh). She has also appeared in several episodes of the German TV detective series "Tatort". She is currently filming "Fleisch ist mein Gemüse" (director: Christian Görlitz) and rehearsing for a stage production of "Twelfth Night" (director: Peter Zadek).

PRODUCTION

Pandora Film Production

In 1982 the two Frankfurt based cinema operators Karl Baumgartner and Reinhard Brundig established Pandora Film Distribution. The name was inspired by G.W Pabst's film "Pandora's Box". With the first films that came out under this label, the thematic focus was clear: Films such as YOL by Yilmaz Günay, NOSTALGHIA by Andrej Tarkovsky or FAREWELL MY CONCUBINE by Chen Kaige all stood for highly ambitious International Art house Cinema. Before long, close working relationships were formed between Pandora and directors such as Aki Kaurismäki and Jim Jarmusch. But it was with Jane Campion's THE PIANO, that Pandora made its first big commercial breakthrough. The concept of presenting excellent cinematographic masterpieces by internationally renowned filmmakers to a German audience paid off, and Pandora Film became one of the most distinguished Distributors within this segment of the market. Alongside the distribution, Pandora Film soon undertook an increasing amount of the actual production work. Gradually many projects were acquired early in the development phase. Soon co-productions began to emerge out of what had originally been a licence and distribution company. With Emir Kusturica's film UNDERGROUND, the transition to production was fulfilled.

In 1996 the production company was moved to Cologne. In 1998 the distribution department in Frankfurt was closed and the extensive library of distribution rights were sold to KINOWELT. The change in market conditions, especially the changed purchase policy of the television stations, and the massive structural changes that came about through the so called "New Market", were just two of many factors involved in this decision.

During the following time, Pandora Film's emphasis has been laying solely on producing and co-producing films for the Cinema. The company has maintained it's thematic emphasis and all the films have had a theatrical release. In addition, every project could be realised as a co-production. The international alignment of the projects is reflected in each and every film. Up to six films are realised per year. In 2002, the Film Funding Institution honoured the company with title "Branchentiger" ["Tiger in the field"]. The same year the Distribution Company went back into business with the co-production "THE MAN WITHOUT A PAST" by Aki Kaurismäki. Since 2005 the producers Christoph Friedel, Raimond Goebel, Claudia Steffen and managing director Rainer Teusner are also partners of Pandora Film Produktion.

Today Pandora Film presents itself as an independent production, marketing and distribution company with the ambition of continuing to grow by means of quality rather than mass production. In the interest of all cinema enthusiasts, we constantly strive to work against the general media conformity, in order to secure the existence of film also as an art form. With the help of about 12 highly motivated colleagues, this challenging battle continues.

PRODUCTIONS AND CO-PRODUCTIONS 1991 - 2007

2007	MADONNEN DIE UNERZOGENEN (THE UNPOLISHED) O'HORTEN DISENGAGEMENT HOPE TEZA TULPAN THE STRENGTH OF WATER UNTER BAUERN 35 RUM DIE FRAU AM HORIZONT 33 SZENEN DUKLA (AT) IM ALTER VON ELLEN HUACHO THE FAKE COMPANY	Maria Speth Pia Marais Bent Hamer Amos Gitai Stanislaw Mucha Haile Gerima S. Dwortsevoj Armagan Ballantyne Ludi Boeken Claire Denis M.X. Oberg Malgorzata Szumowska Lars Jessen Pia Marais Alejandro Fernandez Jochen Felthaus	D/CH/B D Norwegen/D F/D/I D/PL ETH/F/D D/KAZ NZ/D D/F F/D D D/PL D D Chile/D/F D (Prod.) (Pre-Prod.) (Post-Prod.) (Post-Prod.) (Post-Prod.) (Develop.) (Develop.) (Develop.) (Develop.) (Develop.) (Develop.) (Develop.) (Develop.) (Develop.) (Develop.) (Develop.)
2006	LIGHTS IN THE DUSK YOU AM I TO GET TO HEAVEN FIRST YOU HAVE TO DIE FELTRINELLI VALLEY OF FLOWERS	Aki Kaurismäki Kristijonas Vildziunas Djamshed Usmonov Alessandro Rossetto Pan Nalin	FIN/D/FR LITH/D F/D/CH IT/D/CH D/F
2005	EL CUSTODIO OBABA FACTOTUM	Rodrigo Moreno Montxo Armendanz Bent Hamer	ARG/D/FR SP/D N/D
2004	STRANGER LE CHIAVI DI CASA WHISKY FAMILIA RODANTE THE LAST TRAPPER PARADISE GIRLS	Malgorzata Szumowska Gianni Amelio Juan Rebella, Pablo Stoll Pablo Trapero Nicolas Vanier Fow Pynq Hu	D/PL I/F/D Urug/Arg/D Arg/D/F F/D/CAN NL/D
2003	SPRING, SUMMER, FALL, WINTER JAGGED HARMONIES HAPPY END MARIA STRATOSPHERE GIRL	Kim Ki-Duk Dominique de Rivaz Amos Kollek Peter Nezer M.X. Oberg	Kor/D CH/D D/F/USA RUM/D D/F/CH/I/GB
2002	THE MAN WITHOUT A PAST VIVRE ME TUE THE MAGIC GLOVES WHALE RIDER	Aki Kaurismäki Jean Pierre Sinapi Martin Rejtman Niki Caro	Finl/D/F D/F Arg/F/D Neuseel/D
2001	MONSOON WEDDING SAMSARA BEAR'S KISS SHIK BRIDGET ABSOLUT WARHOLA	Mira Nair Pan Nalin Sergei Bodrov Bakhtiar Khudonazarov Amos Kollek Stanislaw Mucha	USA/IN/D D/F/CH D/SP/F/I/SW D/F D/F/Jap D
2000	FAST FOOD FAST WOMEN IN VANDAS ROOM AYURVEDA – ART OF BEING THE QUICKIE SUPER 8 STORIES MY SWEET HOME MOSTLY MARTHA	Amos Kollek Pedro Costa Pan Nalin Sergei Bodrov Emir Kusturica Filippos Tsitos Sandra Nettelbeck	USA/F/D P/D D/CH D/USA D/I D/G D/CH/A/I
1999	ANNA WUNDER HIMALAYA	Ulla Wagner Eric Valli	D/CH F/D/CH

1998	POLA X GHOST DOG KATJA'S ADVENTURE LUNA PAPA WINGED MIGRATION	Leos Carax Jim Jarmusch Lars Hesselholdt Bakhtiar Khudojnazarov Jacques Perrin	F/D/CH USA/D DK/S/N/D/I D/CH/F/Ö F/D/I
1997	DANCE OF THE WIND OSCAR WILDE FULLMOON OS MUTANTES BLACK CAT, WHITE CAT	Rajan Khosa Brian Gilbert Fredri Murer Theresa Villaverde Emir Kusturica	D/GB GB/D CH/D F/SP/D F/D
1996	TANGO LESSON KAMA SUTRA GUY BAJO LA PIEL	Sally Potter Mira Nair Michael Lindsay-Hogg Francisco Lombardi	GB/F/D USA/D GB/D SP/D
1995	UNDERGROUND DEAD MAN FLIRT	Emir Kusturica Jim Jarmusch Hal Hartley	
1994	COLD FEVER INSTITUTE BENJAMENTA AUF WIEDERSEHEN AMERIKA	Fridrik Thor Fridriksson Quay Brothers Jan Schütte	
1993	KOSH BA KOSH FAUST LENINGRAD COWBOYS MEET MOSES	Bakhtiar Khudojnazarov Jan Svanmajer Aki Kaurismäki	
1992	LE JOURNAL DE LANDY M.	Alain Tanner	
1991	LIFE ON A STRING NIGHT ON EARTH	Chen Kaige Jim Jarmusch	

SELECTED FESTIVALS / AWARDS

Festival	FILM	Director	Category / Award
2007			
Berlin	MADONNEN	Maria Speth	Forum
Rotterdam	DIE UNERZOGENEN	Pia Marais	Tiger for Best Film
2006			
San Sebastian	EL CUSTODIO	Rodrigo Moreno	Special Mention Horizontes
Cannes	LIGHTS IN THE DUSK	Aki Kaurismäki	Competition
Cannes	TO GET TO HEAVEN, FIRST YOU HAVE TO DIE YOU AM I	Djamshed Usmonov	Un Certain Regard
Cannes	EL CUSTODIO	Kristijonas Vildziunas	Un Certain Regard
Guadalajara (Mexico)	EL CUSTODIO	Rodrigo Moreno	Best Film , Best Script , Critic FIPRESCI Award
Berlinale	EL CUSTODIO	Rodrigo Moreno	Alfred Bauer Prize
2005			
Berlin	STRANGER	Malgorzata Szumowska	Panorama Spezial
Sundance Filmfestival	STRANGER	Malgorzata Szumowska	Int. Dramatic Competition
Spanish Film Prize	WHISKY	Juan P. Rebella, Pablo Stoll	Goya for best foreign Spanish speaking film
2004			
Havanna	WHISKY	Juan P. Rebella, Pablo Stoll	Best picture
Tokyo	WHISKY	Juan P. Rebella, Pablo Stoll	grand prix, best actress
Venice	FAMILIA RODANTE	Pablo Trapero	Horizonti
Venice	LE CHIAVI DI CASA	Gianni Amelio	Competition
Locarno	Producer KARL BAUMGARNTER		Raimondo Rezzonico-Prize for independent producers
Cannes	WHISKY	Juan P. Rebella, Pablo Stoll	prix du regard original and Fipresci
Berlin	THE STRATOSPHERE GIRL	M.X. Oberg	Panorama Spezial
Academy Awards	WHALE RIDER	Niki Caro	Keisha Castle-Huges nominated for best actress in a leading role
2003			
Academy Awards	WINGED MIGRATION	Jacques Perrin	nominated as best documentary
Academy Awards	THE MAN WITHOUT A PAST	Aki Kaurismäki	nominated as best foreign movie
Berlin	THE SUIT	Bakhtiar Khudonazarov	Pandorama
Locarno	MAGIC GLOVES	Martin Rejtman	Competition
Locarno	JAGGED HARMONIES	Dominique de Rivaz	Piazza Grande
Locarno	SPRING, SUMMER, FALL,...	Kim Ki-Duk	Competition
Locarno	MARIA	Peter Nezter	special price of the jury
Toronto	THE MAGIC GLOVES	Martin Rejtman	best actress, best actor
Toronto	SPRING, SUMMER, FALL,...	Kim Ki-Duk	Screening
San Sebastian	THE MAGIC GLOVES	Martin Rejtman	Screening
San Sebastian	SPRING, SUMMER, FALL,...	Kim Ki-Duk	people choice award
Swiss Film Prize	JAGED HARMONIES	Dominique de Rivaz	swiss film prize

2002

Berlinale
Berlinale
German Film Award

BRIDGET
WINGED MIGRATION
MOSTLY MARTHA

Amos Kollek
Jacques Perrin
Sandra Nettelbeck

Competition
screening out of competition
nominated as **best film**,
Martina Gedeck was awarded
as best actress
grand prix and Kati Outinen
was awarded
as best actress
people choice award
Screening
Première
Sergio Castellitto was
awarded as **best actor**

Cannes

THE MAN WITHOUT A PAST

Aki Kaurismäki

Toronto
San Sebastian
San Sebastian
European Film
Award

WHALE RIDER
WHALE RIDER
VIVRE ME TUE
MOSTLY MARTHA

Niki Caro
Niki Caro
Jean Pierre Sinapi
Sandra Nettelbeck

2001

Berlinale

SUPER 8 STORIES BY
EMIR KUSTURICA
MY SWEET HOME
MOSTLY MARTHA
MONSOON WEDDING
SAMSARA
MOSTLY MARTHA
THE QUICKIE

Emir Kusturica

Competition

Berlinale
Locarno
Venedig
Toronto
Toronto
Toronto
Moscow

THE QUICKIE

Filipos Tsitos
Sandra Nettelbeck
Mira Nair
Pan Nalin
Sandra Nettelbeck
Sergei Bodrov
Sergei Bodrov

Competition
Screening
golden lion
world première
Screening
Screening
prize for
best male acting

2000

Academy Award

HIMALAYA

Eric Valli

nominated as **best**
foreign language film
Competition

Cannes

FAST FOOD, FAST WOMAN

Amos Kollek

1999

Cannes
Cannes
Venedig

POLA X
GHOST DOG
LUNA PAPA

Leos Carax
Jim Jarmusch
Bakhtiar Khudojnazarov

Competition
Competition
Screening

Toronto
Tokyo

LUNA PAPA
LUNA PAPA

Bakhtiar Khudojnazarov
Bakhtiar Khudojnazarov

Screening
best artistic
contribution award

1998

Venedig

BLACK CAT, WHITE CAT

Emir Kusturica

Silver Lion for **best**
directing
grand prix des amériques

Montréal

FULLMOON

Fredi Murer

1995

Cannes
Cannes

UNDERGROUND
DEAD MAN

Emir Kusturica
Jim Jarmusch

palme d'or
competition

madonnas

madonnen
by Maria Speth

press agency during Berlinale

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